



75th ORDNANCE COMPANY (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL)



EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL COMPANY NTC PRIMER



PURPOSE



To inform future units supporting an NTC rotation of what to expect, suggestions on what to bring and what to do before, during and after the rotation. This briefing is primarily meant for units that have not attended a prior NTC rotation.



REFERENCES



- NTC ASK BASE PAGE-
http://call.army.mil/ctcask/ntc_base.htm
- FORSCOM REG 350-1-50



BACKGROUND



A NTC rotation is broken up into four phases over approximately 28 days. The four phases are:

- 1) Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI)- 7 days
- 2) Force on Force (FOF)- 9 days
- 3) Live Fire- 5 days (including 1 transition to live fire day)
- 4) Regeneration/Redeployment- Up to 9 days



BACKGROUND



The rotation is predominantly a Brigade Combat Team fight. Throughout the exercise, the Friendly Forces, or BLUEFOR, encounter terrorist activity, civilians on the battlefield, chemical strikes, and conventional force battles. EOD provides Direct Support to the Brigade during RSOI and FOF with all teams. During Live Fire, at least one team will go OPCON to 52d ID, the higher headquarters.

During our rotation, the US Forces supported the friendly nation of Sonoma against its neighbor to the North, Manderia over a territory dispute.



PRIOR COORDINATION



There are several issues that arise with the deployment, as the EOD company supporting the rotation is often not at the same installation as the Brigade. Recommend that as much face to face time as possible is spent with the key leaders of the Brigade prior to the rotation. Some ideas:

- Make sure you attend the Leader Training Program (LTP) held at NTC approximately 120 days out.
- Attend any train-up exercises held by the supported unit.

Brief the capabilities brief to key leaders prior to



PRIOR COORDINATION



Other prior coordination issues:

- Forecast and submit your DA 581s for ammo well in advance to the rotation. Review the STRAC manual for your CL V requirements. Contact the Brigade S-4 for requirements for the paper flow. Ensure that your forecast includes the “paper ammo” for RSOI and FOF as well as the live CL V for live fire.
- Arrange transportation for soldiers and equipment. Personnel may fly into Las Vegas, but you have to arrange for transportation to and from Fort Irwin with the Brigade. Suggest line



PRIOR COORDINATION



- Ensure that the unit is able to respond on RSOI day 1. This requires sending either an advance party or the entire unit several days prior to the Brigade main body.
- Recommend sending an advance party with either the 1SG or OPS NCO and a team and coordinate for equipment to arrive at RSOI day -3. This will allow time to establish a CP, download and prepare equipment and do the on-ground coordination needed in the first few days. The remaining EOD personnel can then come in on RSOI day -2.



PRIOR COORDINATION



- Ensure that the EOD Annex is submitted and included in the Brigade Base order.
- During RSOI, the unit sleeps under large metal awnings, similar to a carport, at the RUBA. The Brigade brought shelter halves for additional protection against the elements. Ensure that adequate sleeping gear comes with the advance party, (team tents, sleeping bags, etc). See map of the RUBA at

http://call.army.mil/ctcask/Pages/NTC%20Thread/ntc_unittips_base.htm



WHAT TO BRING



- Bring 30 days of supply of expendables, particularly any specific items not in the supply system, such as printer cartridges. We received no CL IX, IV or II while there and CL I and water was sporadic. Keep your DOS of MREs and water filled at all times...there was a 24 hour period where we were the only ones with water at the Bde TOC!
- Have redundancy in all key systems, especially communications. Bring extra hand-mikes, external speakers, and power supplies.
- Bring your own NBC expendables. They use



WHAT TO BRING



- Although it is a heavy team tool, bring at least one ferrous ordnance locator. During our rotation, we had a MK-84 dud and bury itself.
- Hardwire your vehicles for the PLGR, to include the antenna. Also, bring extra batteries (both kinds) for the PLGR. Rockwell makes a rechargeable battery that charges while hooked up to the hardwire.
- Make sure there are 2 sets of NVGs per vehicle with head harnesses. If your unit has PVS-7Bs, order the helmet mounts.

• Bring tie-down straps for your load plan



WHAT TO BRING



- Bring a roll of good acetate for map overlays. Also, prepare an overlay kit. The best example out there was a tackle box with premade markings (units, chem strike areas, etc), markers, and push pins.
- Bring several rolls of engineer tape, bomb stakes, and pickets for marking UXO. Carry lots of empty sandbags in each vehicle. Often times we were the first ones reporting UXO and had to mark and do protective works on the items.
- Have 1 litter per vehicle for non-standard CASEVAC.



WHAT TO BRING



- Ensure you have dust goggles available. They are mandatory for vehicles without doors or windshields. Look at the worst case scenario... your vehicle is NMC and you must get a ride in the back of a HMMWV.
- Prepare a complete PCC and the commander or 1SG should do the PCIs prior to leaving home station. This is part of the "Big 8" and will be checked daily during FOF and Live Fire, so get in the habit now.
- Bring concertina gloves and wire cutters.



RSOI



During RSOI there is the possibility of terrorist attacks and/or missions involving civilians on the battlefield (COBs). This is why it is important to be operational on RSOI day 1. Ensure you have the paper 581s approved by the DAO and you have your CL V training aids (the basic items available were mock C-4 blocks and MDI). You must simultaneously complete a lot of other tasks to build your combat power as well as attend numerous in-briefings. The most important thing to remember is that the unexpected could happen next; get done as much as possible as soon as possible. It is hard to process a vehicle through



RSOI



Building Combat Power: During RSOI, the emphasis is on building combat power. Basically, this means getting your personnel and equipment ready to move into FOF. There are seven basic items that are evaluated on a daily basis.

1) Shoot: Personnel are qualified on assigned weapon, PMCS of weapon is complete, MILES zero is complete (the Brigade will run a MILES zero range during RSOI that everyone must attend)



RSOI



2) Move: PMCS complete (make sure you understand the 5988E flow and timeline), equipment FMC, NVGs operational with harness, maps and overlays in each vehicle (ensure you include a map of the RUBA with the towers and gates marked), loadplans are complete and validated, and vehicle MILES equipment is drawn and operational.

3) Communicate: Short Range/Long Range commo checks complete (find out the time that your higher unit is doing long range checks), 100% COMSEC fills.



RSOI



4) Sustain: UBL is OH (ensure you are follow the guidelines established in your or your higher HQs TACSOP), CLS bags are 100% complete (some replensihment is available from the C Med Co of the FSB)

5) Force Protection: Risk Management procedures are in place, NBC equipment is OH and emplaced (M9 paper, M256 kits), PPE is complete.

6) Training: Prepare and practice rollover and fire drills, unit receives ROE briefing, limited visibility and lost in desert actions, and all



RSOI



7) Personnel/C2: Key positions are filled and battle roster is complete with battle roster numbers (we incorporated our numbers with the EN BN we were attached to)



RSOI



Sidewinder Inbriefs: During RSOI, there is one day that will the commander will spend receiving and getting briefings from the Sidewinder O/Cs. Find out in advance what areas, if any, you need to brief. At a minimum, be prepared to state your training objectives are and what you hope to get out of the rotation.



RSOI



Mission Support: RSOI is best time to provide classes and coordinate with other units. Although personnel are spread throughout different areas doing different tasks, it is not as bad as during FOF. Recommend that you do a face to face with the MPs, Civil Affairs, Brigade Battle Captains, the security force, and the Chemical Company. Have teams visit the artillery units and practice stuck round procedures. Give the Brigade Battle Captains a capabilities brief and explain reporting procedures and how to contact EOD. Ask for a Commander's Critical Asset List. If there is not one, submit a proposed list and explain why EOD



RSOI



The Brigade may or may not have established a Commander's Critical Asset List. This list may be used to help establish EOD mission priorities within the AO and de-conflict missions. If there is not a published CCAL, recommend that you draft one utilizing the priorities of support put forth in the Brigade order.



CRITICAL ASSET LIST PRIORITY OF PROTECTION



1. C2 Nodes
2. Acquisition Radar
3. MLRS, Tube Artillery Sites
4. ADA sites
5. MSR's
6. BCT Logistics Nodes
7. Host Nation



RSOI



Mission Support: Coordinate in advance for a plan to give classes on Explosive Ordnance Recognition, UXO marking and reporting procedures. Get stacks of the UXO GTAs to give to the units. Recommend that visual aids for the classes are put on butcher block paper and laminated, if possible. Set up an example of the proper UXO markings in a centrally located area that the majority of soldiers will pass, such as at the shoppette.



FOF



Prior to moving to the Tactical Assembly Areas, you should already have a solid plan on how EOD will support the Brigade. Adjustments can be made dependant on METT-TC, but the base plan should already be there. There are several things to consider:

- 1) Location of the EOD CP. We found it best to located our CP in the BDE TOC. This helped alleviate several problems, such as information flow and communications. The BDE staff always knew where to find us and the teams could attempt to reach us through the EN BN or BDE TOC frogs, with their respective BTOs only a few



FOF



2) Location of the EOD teams. Look at where your teams can be placed to best support the mission. We located one team with the CP at the BDE TOC and the other at the EN UMCP. This should be part of your MDMP. Tailor your support to best fit the mission.

3) Specified and implied missions. There were very few specified missions for EOD during our rotation. To better support the Brigade, ensure EOD is part of the mission analysis.

Tasks/missions that EOD should play a part in are probably being worked already and EOD has just not been identified as a player.



FOF



Complete the plans and coordination as early as possible. Doing it in advance will allow the unit to concentrate on mission response. Strive to improve operations every day. Suggestion to bring UXO to the forefront is to prepare a “did you know” slide covering past UXO casualties in real world deployments as well as up to date information during the rotations. The next slide is the one we used during our rotation. This information should be provided to the senior leadership throughout the Brigade.



UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) DID YOU KNOW?



1. In the past six training days, personnel lost their lives to UXO in two separate incidents. Neither soldier was playing with UXO, they were just not situationally aware and stepped on the items, causing them to detonate. Several items were found with footprints and tire tracks on the UXO.
2. If you find an UXO, do not approach it. Mark the area around it with white engineering tape and pickets, and get an 8 digit grid. Send a 9 line UXO spot report immediately up your chain of command. 75th EOD is collocated with the 70th EN BN TOC.
3. Items found in the AO over the past few days include numerous M22 simulators (real), Hoffman devices (real) Armor Piercing projectiles (real) FAB



FOF



When supporting specified missions, such as SASO or chemical weapon missions, ensure that, even though you are not in charge, support is available. If linguists are required, make sure one is present. If medical or engineer support is required, make sure it will be there. Often times, the OIC of some of these missions overlooked these details and the mission did not occur as planned. Bottom line, it may not be your responsibility, but it will be your problem to deal with!



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FOF



The unit will be observed and tracked on their progress with the BIG 8 during each mission. Your progress is tracked by the O/Cs and gets briefed at the AAR following each mission (in green, amber, red, black format). The following slides give each category and examples of a score of 3, which is the standard.



FOF



- Boresight- Soldiers are MILES zeroed; weapons cleaned and functions checked
- PCCs/PCIs- Soldiers conduct PCCs IAW TACSOP; conduct short and long-range commo checks; PCI conducted
- CL 35MM- LOGSTAT submitted daily; DOS on-hand (per TACSOP or order); CLS bags OH and complete; unit has CASEVAC plan
- Rehearsals- Conduct mission support rehearsals



FOF



- OPORTER- paragraphs complete and OPORTD issued to critical leaders; receive backbrief from critical leaders
- Time Management- Unit issues timely WARNO; 2/3 rule enforced; time used effectively
- Graphics/overlays- Graphics disseminated to team level; portray enemy, operational, fire, obstacle and CSS (incl CASEVAC)
- Risk Management- Conduct risk management; ID tactical and safety hazards and implement controls; prepare written risk assessment; practice fire and rollover drills



LIVE FIRE



Once Live Fire begins, you may get tasked to provide a team to go OPCON to division. If this happens, you lose command and control of that team and they become a part of the white force under direct OC control. Other than that, operations continue as they did under Force on Force, except that you will have drawn live demo.



LIVE FIRE



During live fire, UXO missions truly give the commander's a view of what we do. There is no longer an "Its just simulated, we'll drive over it" attitude. UXO can and will cause changes to the mission, movements and actions of the BLUEFOR.



LIVE FIRE



We did not change our operations significantly during live fire. We continued operating in conjunction with the Brigade TOC with our remaining team located with us. The Brigade did impose several movement conditions, such as NO driving during hours of darkness, so you have to adjust your mission timelines.



FOF



Once live fire is complete, there is one remaining task for EOD. The company has to clear the road through Granite Pass to ensure no explosive hazards remain as this is the MSR used to return back to FT Irwin proper. The main problem we had with this was the O/Cs creeping up behind us as we were clearing and even one O/C driving down the uncleared portion of the road towards us. Just make sure you have good C2 of the situation and work with your O/C to establish safe separation between yourself and the other units.



FOF



After Granite Pass is cleared, you have time to go back into the box and take care of any UXO that did not pose an immediate hazard and was just marked. This is why it is so important to keep a good log of items and grids (8 digit minimum). A list of items not disposed of should be turned over to the O/Cs for the EOD unit at Irwin to dispose of.



RECONSTITUTION



Our Brigade spent the night following end-ex in the box around the four-corners area.

Reconstitution began at this time, primarily with CL V and residue turn-in, equipment accountability and operation order dissemination.

I recommend that, after CL V turn-in, the EOD company coordinates for early return to the RUBA. There was not a priority of support for MILES turn-in or the wash rack, so, unless you get there first, you will wait a long time in a very long line. Getting in there the night before will allow your soldiers to get clean and be one of the first in line without hurting the Brigade, as you



RECONSTITUTION



The main tasks during reconstitution are accountability of equipment, turn in of MILES, vehicle repairs and administrative tasks, such as award recommendations. You will again sleep in the RUBA, so have your tents ready. There will be a final AAR for the CDR and 1SG to attend, but the additional meetings, for the most part, will not apply to EOD. Coordinate for Line-haul and transportation back to the airport early so you do not spend days waiting with nothing to do after your equipment is ready to go.